Message Text

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R 262002Z JAN 78 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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SY CHANNEL FOR RSO TEHRAN AND RSS NAIROBI FROM SAS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: ELLINI INVESTIGATION

REF: STATE 6395

- 1. USDA SPECIAL AGENT STAN H. CHASE IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE TEHRAN 1930 ON FEBRUARY 6 ABOARD PA FLIGHT NUMBER 2. AGRICULTURE ATTACHE HAS BEEN ADVISED BY USDA AND WILL MEET AND ASSIST.
- 2. IN A RECENT LETTER TO DASS DIKEOS, USDA STATED, QUOTE IN ADDITION TO THE INTERVIEW WITH ELLINI, SPECIAL AGENT CHASE WILL ALSO BE INTERESTED IN PERFORMING SEVERAL INTERVIEWS WITH OFFICIALS OF THE IRANIAN MEAT ORGANIZATION, RELATIVE TO ANOTHER INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED BY THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OFFICE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ASSISTANCE YOU COULD PROVIDE IN THIS REGARD, DETAILS OF WHICH SPECIAL AGENT CHASE WILL MAKE AVAILABLE UPON HIS ARRIVAL. END QUOTE.

3. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS REQUEST WITH THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR AND WITH THE LEGAL DIVISION. ORDINARILY WE WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO HAVE INVESTIGATORS OF OTHER AGENCIES CON-

DUCTING INVESTIGATIONS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES. AT A BARE MINIMUM WE WOULD INSIST THAT IT BE A JOINT INVESTIGATION

WITH AN RSO (WHO IS ALREADY ACCREDITED TO THE COUNTRY AND HAS APPROPRIATE POLICE LIAISON CONTACTS) ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN ALL INTERVIEWS OR INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITY OUTSIDE THE EMBASSY CONFINES. IN THIS INSTANCE IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT OFFICIALS OF THE GOI APPROACHED THE AGRICULTURE ATTACHE AND COMPLAINED ABOUT THE SHIPMENT OF ONE-HALF MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF POULTRY TO TEHRAN. AS A RESULT OF THOSE COMPLAINTS, USDA IS INVESTIGATING THE AMERICAN CONTRACTOR WITH A VIEW TOWARD POSSIBLE CRIMINAL PROSECUTION OF THE FIRM. IN THAT REGARD, USDA WOULD LIKE SPECIAL AGENT CHASE, WHILE HE IS IN TEHRAN, TO INTERVIEW APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE IRANIAN MEAT ORGANIZATION IN ORDER TO COLLECT TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE TO SUBSTANTIATE THE GOI COMPLAINTS. PRESUMABLY THESE INTERVIEWS WOULD BE ARRANGED BY THE AGRICULTURE ATTACHE.

4. REQUEST POST CONCURRENCE IN MR. CHASE'S INTERVIEW OF OFFICIALS OF THE IRANIAN MEAT ORGANIZATION. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THESE INTERVIEWS (I.E. LOCATION AT WHICH THEY WILL BE HELD, AND NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES THROUGH FOREIGN MINISTRY, ETC.) WILL BE LEFT UP TO THE POST. VANCE

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To: TEHRAN NAIROBI

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